

MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Potential Health and Safety Hazards

In the Medical Marihuana Industry



Introduction

The complicated nature of the hazards present in the medical marihuana industry highlights the need for careful attention to safety and health at all types of marihuana businesses. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an overview of the safety and health hazards that *may* be present in the cultivation, processing, and sale of marijuana. **Not all hazards listed in this guide may be present at a given facility. Conversely, there may be additional hazards not listed within the scope of this guide that may be present at a given facility.** This guide is intended to provide a starting point for the assessment and evaluation of occupational health hazards.

Safety and health management system (SHMS)

Identifying and controlling workplace hazards begins with an effective SHMS. Such a system typically consists of five critical elements that apply safety and health management practices of employers who have been successful in protecting the safety and health of their employees. An effective SHMS depends on:

- **Management Commitment and Planning** – Top management must provide visible ongoing commitment and leadership for implementing the SHMS covering all workers, including contract workers.
- **Employee Involvement** – The best SHMSs involve employees at every level of the organization. Employees are often those closest to the hazard and have first-hand knowledge of workplace hazards.
- **Safety and Health Training** – Training is the means to help assure employees and management understand safety and health

hazards and know how to protect themselves and others from the hazards while doing their job.

- **Worksite Analysis** – Worksite analysis is a comprehensive evaluation of the hazards and potential hazards in the workplace.
- **Hazard Prevention and Control** – Effective management actively establishes procedures for timely identification, correction, and control of hazards. Once hazards and potential hazards are recognized, a hazard prevention and control program can be designed.

Standards likely to impact the industry

Applies during cultivation, growth, and harvesting of plant materials:

Part 700. Agriculture (not a complete list):

- Air contaminants (e.g., carbon dioxide)
- Respiratory protection
- Noise
- Fire suppression systems
- Ventilation

Part 42, 92, 430. Hazard Communication

- Written program
- Safety data sheets
- Labeling
- Employee training
- See standard for complete requirements

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.



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Applies during the processing and distribution of plant materials and plant products.

Part 1. General Provision

- Housekeeping
- Machine controls, guarding, and devices
- Compressed air

Part 2. Walking-Working Surfaces

Part 6. Fire Exits

Part 21. Powered Industrial Trucks

Provides the minimum safety rules for:

- Operator training, testing, and permits
- Care and use of powered industrial trucks
- Specifications of equipment

Part 42, 92, 430. Hazard Communication

- Written program
- Safety data sheets
- Labeling
- Employee training
- See standard for complete requirements

Part [33](#) and [433](#). Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Perform a Job Hazard Assessment (JHA)
- Certification of hazard assessment
- Selection of PPE
- Employee training
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Clean and sanitize multi-user PPE
- [PPE guide and sample certification](#) (doc)

Part 451. Respiratory Protection

If employer requires the use of respirators or such are required, the standard set forth minimum requirements.

- Designate qualified program administrator
- Provide respirators, training, and medical surveillance at no cost to employees

Written program requirements:

- Selection procedure
- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing procedures
- Procedures for proper use and maintenance
- Employee training
- Program evaluation

Part 380. Occupational Noise Exposure

When information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed the action level of 85 dBA as an 8-hour time-weighted average:

- Develop and implement a noise-monitoring program to evaluate employee noise exposure.
- If noise monitoring results exceed the action level, a hearing conservation program is required.
- What information may indicate exposure above the action level? Workplace noise levels that interfere with normal conversation (i.e., raising voice to be heard over background noise).

Part 472. Medical Services and First Aid

- Medical assistance – When required to have first aid providers onsite.
- Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available.
- Emergency eyewash and shower requirements.

Part 474. Sanitation

- Housekeeping and waste disposal
- Vermin control
- Water supply
- Provision of toilet facilities
- Food/beverage storage and consumption

Part 301. Air Contaminants

- Carbon dioxide used in some processes that extract substances from plant material.
- Other chemicals may also be used in the extraction process.

Please visit the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards for additional information on MIOSHA standards; or contact the Consultation, Education and Training Division at (517) 284-7720.

Additional Resources:

- Colorado Department of Health and Environment – [Marijuana Safety and Health](#)
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries – [Cannabis Industry Safety and Health \(Marijuana\)](#)
- Suggested Format for a Written Hazard Communication Program – [Sample Written Plan](#)
- [PPE guide and sample certification](#)